

Lakewood Animal Welfare and Safety Advisory Board



Councilmember Advisor Tristan Rader

ACO Jack Crawford

Kara A. Vlach-Lasher-C
Susan Speer -Co
Erin Shaughnessy-S

Mary Taubman
Derek Maxfield
Nancy McDonnell

Nancy Patterson
Juleen Russell

Lakewood City Hall, 12650 Detroit Avenue

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Dear Councilmember Rader,

Our Board has completed a year-end informational report, summarizing our work over the past year, along with a brief look forward into 2019. Attached is this report for your consideration and to pass along to your fellow Councilmembers and Administration as you see fit.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kara A. Vlach-Lasher".

Kara A. Vlach-Lasher

Chair

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Year-End Report November 28, 2018 Lakewood City Hall, 12650 Detroit Avenue

Introduction

Lakewood Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board (LASWAB) members are proud to have served this Council and Administration over the last year with several initiatives which we summarize below. As several LASWAB members' terms come to a close in December, we'd like to communicate an overview of this Board's work throughout the year. 2018 was a busy year beginning with support for the overhaul of the dog ordinances in our city and culminating with our third **Spay and Neuter Transport Day** which raised awareness for the importance of spay and neuter and provided financial assistance for low-income citizens to get their pets altered.

2018 LASWAB Initiatives Addressed

1. Wildlife Education
2. Dog Ordinances
3. Spay and Neuter Education and Outreach
4. General Community Education Outreach

1. Wildlife Education

- a. Design, finalization and distribution throughout the city of
"Co-Existing with Coyotes" literature, both Facts Sheets and Posters.





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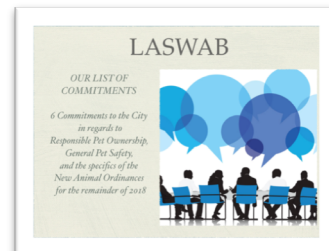
Lakewood City Hall, 12650 Detroit Avenue

- b. Worked with the city to create the “*Co-Existing with Coyotes*” signage, which was posted in Lakewood Park.



2. Dog Ordinances

- a. Creation of 15-page ***Dog Ordinance Recommendation Report*** for reference during several Committee of the Whole meeting discussions regarding the modifications to the dog ordinances.
- b. Held community meetings for input/ideas on how best to provide outreach and education to the community and our animal owners in Lakewood about the new legislation and responsible pet ownership.
- c. Gathered community meeting information and did additional research to prepare a slide presentation for meeting with the Mayor and administration officials. LASWAB provided recommendations for action items, ideas and resources as well as a list of commitments from the LASWAB members toward reaching the goals of a community outreach and education plan on the new legislation/responsible pet ownership in the city.





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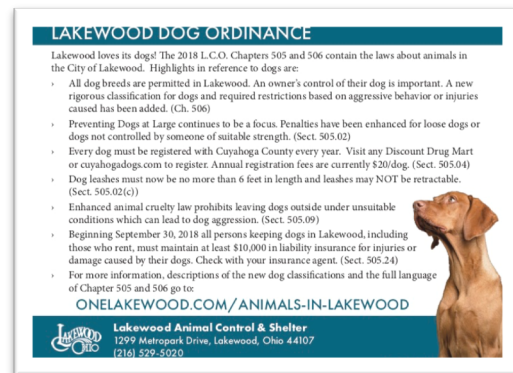
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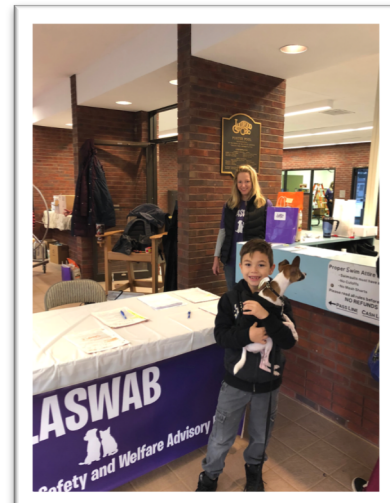
- d. Worked with administration personnel on “**Guide to Responsible Pet Ownership/Lakewood Dog Ordinance**” postcard that was created. Helped with distribution of over 1,000 postcards to various locations throughout the City.



3. Spay and Neuter Education and Outreach

- a. Created a Proposal for **Free Spay and Neuter Program** in Lakewood making spay/neuter services available to low-income Lakewood dog owners on government assistance.
- b. Creation, promotion and production of third “**Spay and Neuter Transport Day**” in October to raise awareness for the importance of spay and neuter and provide financial assistance for low income citizens to get their pets altered.

This year’s event covered dogs under the **Free Spay and Neuter Program** described in (a) above, and transported them to the PetFix Spay and Neuter Clinic in Euclid. Rabies shots and other vaccinations/services were provided at an additional cost.





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- c. Will continue promotion of the ***Free Spay and Neuter Program*** through February 2019.

- d. Promotion of Spay and Neuter Month (February)/ World Spay Day (February 27th) with custom graphic for the City's Facebook page.



4. General Community Education and Outreach

- a. Participation in the 4th of July Parade where LASWAB members created a LASWAB Dog Mobile and handed out children's educational materials: 850 donated coloring books (with crayons) for kids on responsible dog ownership. Over 500 of the City's "***Guide to Responsible Pet Ownership***" postcards about the new dog ordinances were distributed as well.





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- b. Manned a booth at the 11th annual Spooky Pooch Parade where LASWAB members answered questions about the new dog ordinances, distributed the City's "***Guide to Responsible Pet Ownership***" postcards, literature on County dog licensing, promoted "***Spay and Neuter Transport Day***" and the ***Free Spay and Neuter Program***, spay and neuter education, and "***Co-Existing with Coyotes***" literature.



- c. Provided monthly relevant educational/ informational articles for Facebook posting on animal related issues in our city on issues such as:
- i. "Feeding Birds without Burdens: the do's and don'ts of bird feeding in Lakewood."
 - ii. "Summer Safety Tips for your Pets: Safety in the Heat."
 - iii. "City Chickens: First-hand Tips on Backyard Hen Keeping in Lakewood."



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Membership

We have three members whose terms will be ending December 31, 2018 and will not be seeking reappointment, Derek Maxfield, Susan Speer and Nancy Patterson. Susan was the Board Co-chair, and Derek led the Spay and Neuter Committee and spearheaded the ***Spay and Neuter Transport Day*** event this year. We thank them for their dedicated service to this board. We also continue to have one open appointment. We hope to have these appointments filled as soon as possible in 2019 in order to continue our important work in support of animal safety and welfare issues in our community.

Looking forward into 2019

We hope to continue our support of these initiatives throughout 2019 with plans to also add research and recommendations for some Community Dog Bite Prevention & Education. We look forward to your continued reliance on the Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board in 2019 as a valued resource for the numerous issues related to the safety and welfare of the citizens and their animals in our community.